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<h2 style="text-align: center;">TRANSMITTAL FORM</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</p>		Application Number	09/888,494
		Filing Date	November 20, 2001
		First Named Inventor	OUYANG, TIANMEI
		Group Art Unit	1661
		Examiner Name	Ruth A. Davis
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	21	Attorney Docket Number	LIFE-040
<b>ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)</b>			
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<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>			
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Date	January 20, 2004		

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<b>AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE</b>  Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Attorney Docket No.	LIFE-040/IFS-149
	Confirmation No.	8555
	First Named Inventor	OUYANG, TIANMEI
	Application Number	09/988,494
	Filing Date	November 20, 2001
	Group Art Unit	1651
	Examiner Name	DAVIS, RUTH A.
Title: "STABILIZED TETRAZOLIUM PHENAZINE REAGENT COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR USING THE SAME"		

OFFICIAL

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the final Office Action dated October 17, 2003, for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before January 20, 2003 (January 17 and 18 being weekend days, and January 19 being a Federal holiday). As such, this response is timely filed.

In view of the remarks set forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.